

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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NSF-04 SCI-06 RSR-01 /157 W
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FM US MISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1492

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJECT: FEDERAL OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REF: BERLIN A-183

1. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ
IN RATHAUS SCHOENEBERG, FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER
GENSCHER ANNOUNCED AUGUST 27 THAT DECISION HAD BEEN
TAKEN TO LOCATE NEW FEDERAL OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION IN WEST BERLIN. GENSCHER CITED BOTH
PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL REASONS FOR THIS CHOICE, BUT
EMPHASIZED THAT DECISION IN FAVOR OF BERLIN HAD
"SPECIAL POLITICAL DIMENSION" AT TIME WHEN DIFFICULTIES
WERE BEING EXPERIENCED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE FACT THAT AN EXPERT COMMISSION
TASKED TO STUDY PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE HAD OPTED UNANIMOUSLY
FOR SITE NEAR BONN CLEARLY INDICATES WEIGHT OF POLITICAL
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FACTOR IN DECISION.

2. SENAT HAS THUS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING TO COMPLETION ONE OF MORE IMPORTANT PROJECTS WITHIN OVERALL LONG-RANGE PLAN OF ATTRACTING NEW FEDERAL AND EUROPEAN OFFICES AND INSTITUTIONS TO WEST BERLIN (REFAIR). RESPONDING TO GENSCHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ THANKED HIM FOR THIS QUICK DECISION WHICH HE ASSERTED WOULD HELP IN LONG TERM TO ASSURE VIABILITY OF BERLIN. SCHUETZ ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT EAST BERLIN TO RAISE ANY OBJECTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OFFICE.

3. COMMENT: INDICATIONS ARE THAT SCHUETZ MAY BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC IN ESTIMATION THAT GDR WILL RAISE NO PROTEST. IN COURSE OF CALL ON POLAD ON OTHER BUSINESS AUGUST 28, SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR BELETSKIY INFORMALLY EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPROVAL OF GENSCHER'S DECISION. HE CLAIMED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN WOULD BE CONTRARY TO QA IN THAT THIS OFFICE WOULD BE PERFORMING GOVERNMENTAL ACTS INCONSISTENT WITH PROVISION THAT WESTERN SECTORS ARE NOT CONSTITUENT PART OF FRG. BELETSKIY STATED FURTHER THAT ENTIRE THRUST OF AGREEMENT WAS THAT FEDERAL PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN WOULD BE DIMINISHED, WHICH CERTAINLY IMPLIED THAT NO NEW OFFICES WOULD BE OPENED. POLAD REJECTED BOTH THESE ARGUMENTS AS BEING GROUNDED ON FAULTY INTERPRETATIONS OF QA, AND SAID IT WAS QUITE CLEAR FROM ANNEX II OF QA THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON WHY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED IN BERLIN. MOREOVER, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING THE TIES BETWEEN FRG AND WEST BERLIN REFERRED TO IN THE SAME ANNEX. IN VIEW OF NEGATIVE INITIAL SOVIET REACTION TO GENSCHER ANNOUNCEMENT, HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF FORMAL STATEMENT FROM SOVIETS AND/OR PROTEST THROUGH GDR MEDIA.KLEIN

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